

Appl. No.: 10/814,694
Reply to Office Action of: 04/03/2009

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-4, 6, 20 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Tholin et al. (SU 6,558,013). The examiner is requested to reconsider this rejection.

Claim 1 has been amended above to clarify applicants' claimed invention. Claim 1 claims that a plurality of holes collectively combine to define a majority of the visual trace of the character, and that the groove (at the front face of the key cap) connects the holes such that the trace is visible in daylight.

Tholin et al. discloses a mask 18 at the front face 19 which can be laser etched. However, in Tholin et al. each word (such as "ON" or "OFF") or symbol (such as a rectangle) has only one hole (receiving one of the slabs 11, 12). Each word character (such as "O" and "N" for the word ON for example) is not made of a plurality of holes, and the rectangular symbol only has one hole disclosed. There is no disclosure or suggestion of a character (such as "O" or "N" or the rectangle) having a plurality of holes collectively combining to define a majority of the visual trace of a character (a single character). Only one hole is disclosed in Tholin et al. for any character (and a single hole for multiple character).

Claim 1, on the other hand, claims that a plurality of holes collectively combine to define a majority of the visual trace of the character, and that the groove (at the front face of the key cap) connects the holes such that the trace is visible in daylight. There is no disclosure or suggestion of this in

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Tholin et al. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over the cited art.

Though the claims dependent upon claim 1 contain their own allowable subject matter, these claims should at least be allowable due to their dependence from allowable claim 1. However, to expedite prosecution at this time, no further comment will be made.

New claim 27 has been added above to claim the features recited therein.

Favorable consideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issue remain, the examiner is invited to call applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark F. Harrington

Mark F. Harrington (Reg. No. 31,686)

6/25/09

Date

Customer No.: 29683
Harrington & Smith, PC
4 Research Drive
Shelton, CT 06484-6212
203-925-9400

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